

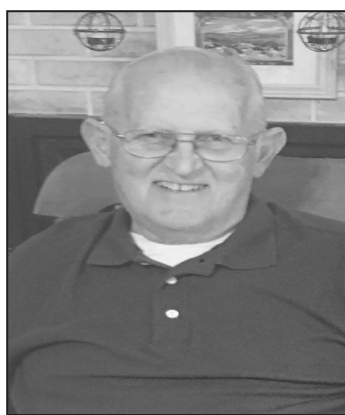
Obituaries -----

William W. "Bill" Benton Jr.

William W. "Bill" Benton Jr., 78, of Mt. Zion, IL passed away at 11:45 a.m., Monday, January 14, 2019, in St. Mary's Hospital.

A service to celebrate Bill's life was held at 11:00 a.m., Thursday, January 17, 2019, at Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home, Mt. Zion. Burial will be in Point Pleasant Cemetery, Long Creek with military honors provided by the Macon County Honor Guard. Memorials may be made in Bill's memory to the ALS Foundation. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.dawson-wikoff.com.

Bill was born July 22, 1940, in Decatur, IL the son of William W. and Lilly (Howell) Benton Sr. Bill served his country in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War and went on to later serve in the US Navy reserves as a Seabee, obtaining the rank of Chief Petty Officer and was a Gulf War veteran. He retired from Caterpillar as an electrician. Bill was a member of the UAW #751. He was a member of the First Baptist Church in Mt. Zion having served as a deacon in the church. He married Sharon Lynn Scott on November 23,



1963. Bill enjoyed traveling, having been to all fifty states as well as Ireland and Israel. Bill had a passion for gardening. Surviving are his wife: Sharon of Mt. Zion; children: Bill (Sharon Kay) Benton of Mt. Zion, Jeremy (Mandy) Benton of Sturgeon Bay, WI, and Amy Benton of Mt. Zion; brothers: Richard Benton (Gloria) of Cape Girardeau, MO and Don Benton (Brenda) of Centralia, IL; sisters: Betty Powers (Jim) of Garner, NC, Ann Wiley (Gary) of Decatur, and Kathy Benton of Decatur; grandchildren: Laura, Trevan, Jemma, Stephanie, Alex, Trystan, and Kaylynn; special friends: Mary and Carol Mulvany and Joan and Bob Butler. Bill was preceded in death by his parents and his brother: Jack.

THE MT. ZION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IS NOW ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

(Mt. Zion, IL) The Scholarship Committee of the Mt. Zion Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that it is now accepting applications for its annual scholarship program. To learn more about the criteria and application process, please go to www.mtzionchamber.org/2019-mzcc-college-scholarship, email admin@mtzchamber.org or call 217-864-2526.

Applications must be received no later than March 1, 2019.

ILLINOIS SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIPS

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association announces that it will be awarding over \$50,000 in college scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2019-2020 academic year. The scholarships are to be applied to tuition, books and fees only. The student must be enrolled full-time at a certified institution of higher learning within the State of Illinois. Sheriff Antonio D. Brown of Macon County will be awarding 2 (two) scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each.

There will be no restriction on any applicant by reason of race, age, creed, color, sex or national origin. The only limitations are as follows: Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents. Scholarships must be

utilized at institutions of higher learning within the State of Illinois.

Students must be enrolled as a full-time student during the 2019-2020 school year (excluding summer session).

Applications are now available at your local Sheriff's office or on the ISA

Website www.ilsheriff.org. Students must complete the application; answer the essay question and return all documentation to the Sheriff's office in their permanent county of residence by March 15, 2019 (must be postmarked by this date).

For more information, please contact your local Sheriff's office, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, high school advising center or college financial aid office.

Mt. Zion Students Get a LaCrosse Lesson from DISC



Caulkins Announces Opening of Decatur District Office

Decatur – State Representative Dan Caulkins (R-Decatur) has announced the opening of his district office in Decatur.

Representative Caulkins' district office is located at 715 W. Imboden Drive in Decatur. The office phone number is 217-876-1968 and his official website address is repcaulkins.com. Rep. Caulkins encourages constituents to reach out to him with any questions or concerns they may have regarding Illinois state government.

"I am pleased to announce that my district office is up and running and my staff and I are eager to meet with constituents to assist

them in any way we can," Rep. Caulkins said.

Representative Caulkins also announced that he has hired Missy Wooters to serve as his chief of staff. Wooters is a familiar face to 101st District residents, as she previously served for twenty years as an aide and chief of staff to retired State Rep. Bill Mitchell.

"Missy brings two decades of legislative experience serving families throughout Central Illinois," Caulkins said. "She's a great asset to me and my office and I'm thrilled to have her as my chief of staff."

The 101st Illinois House District includes all or portions of the following counties: Champaign, DeWitt, Macon, McLean & Piatt.

Commission Seeks Input on Native Imagery Topics

CHAMPAIGN, Ill. – The Chancellor's Commission on Native Imagery: Healing and Reconciliation is seeking input from the community to help the campus move forward on the matter of the permanently retired symbol Chief Illiniwek.

Anyone interested in adding their perspective may access an online survey to answer two questions, with answers limited to 100 words:

"Based on the history surrounding the creation of Chief Illiniwek, what do you think were the best or worst intentions of the symbol?"

"Describe the most significant impact on you and your community of symbols associated with University of Illinois spirit, such as Chief Illiniwek."

Input will be accepted until Jan. 28.

Illinois Department Of Public Health Lead Rules Approved

SPRINGFIELD – Rules proposed by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) that will increase the number of children identified with lead poisoning and trigger earlier intervention were approved by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) today. The rules lower the level at which public health interventions are initiated for children with blood lead levels from 10 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) to 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$, the same lead reference level used by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"The new lower action level means more children will be identified as having lead poisoning, allowing parents, doctors, public health officials, and communities to take action earlier to reduce the child's future exposure to lead," said IDPH Director Nirav D. Shah, M.D., J.D. "Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to contribute to learning disabilities, developmental delays, behavioral problems, as well as a number of other negative health effects."

With the new rules, children who test at or above the new intervention level of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ will receive a home visit from a public health nurse who will educate families on ways to lower the blood lead level and reduce lead exposure, including proper nutrition, hygiene, and housekeeping. Public health environmental experts will also begin to inspect residences for all children with an elevated blood lead level of 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ or greater to determine the potential source(s) of the child's lead exposure as

additional resources become available.

The burden of Illinois childhood lead poisoning remains one of the highest in the nation. Among the approximately 229,000 children tested in 2017, more than 7,000 had blood lead levels at or above 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$.

Illinois law requires that all children six years of age or younger be assessed for lead risk. Physicians must perform a blood lead test for children who live in high-risk areas or meet other risk criteria.

In addition to lowering the blood lead level at which health departments will conduct an environmental inspection and case management, the rules reduce other lead environmental benchmarks including lead in dust and water.

The rules also propose increased enforcement authority for violations of the Lead Poisoning Prevention Act and Code. This includes property owners who fail to perform lead remediation on a property where children with elevated blood levels live. Additionally, the proposed rules increase the maximum fine for violators to encourage compliance with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency rules and impose penalties for returned checks or insufficient payments. This rulemaking also establishes the safest way for lead to be removed from homes and ensures that workers engaged in this work are appropriately remediating lead hazards and are not creating additional risk to residents.

The rules will become effective in the coming weeks and will be available in the Illinois Register on the Illinois Secretary of State website.